

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a ceramic sheet, the method comprising steps of:

sandwiching a first green sheet between spacers;

baking the first green sheet while the first green sheet is sandwiched between the spacers; and

producing ~~the~~ a ceramic sheet ~~of claim 1~~ having not more than 5 defects in an area of 900 mm² from the first green sheet, where wherein

each of the spacers is a either a second green sheet or a calcined sheet each comprising spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm as a main component.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the content of the spherical ceramic particles is 80 wt% or larger with respect to the weight of the total ceramics contained in each of the spacers.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method according to claims 5 or 6, wherein each of the spacers has a sintering temperature of 50 to 300°C higher than the sintering temperature of the first green sheet ~~to be baked~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to claims 5 or 6, wherein at least one of the spacers is a the second green sheet, and the baking calcines the at least one of the spacers to form at least one porous sheet having a porosity of 5 to 60%.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A green sheet for use as a spacer in producing the ceramic sheet of claim 1~~ The method according to claims 5 or 6, wherein the spacers comprise the second green sheet; and the second green sheet including includes ceramic particles 80 wt% or more of which are spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm .

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~A calcined sheet for use as a spacer in producing the ceramic sheet of claim 1~~ The method according to claims 5 or 6, wherein the spacers comprise the calcined sheet; and the calcined sheet including includes ceramic particles 80 wt% or more of which are spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm .

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~green sheet~~ method according to claim 9, wherein the spherical ceramic particles have a ratio of a major axis thereof relative to a minor axis thereof of 1 to 3.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~calcined sheet~~ method according to claim 10, wherein the spherical ceramic particles have a ratio of a major axis thereof relative to a minor axis thereof of 1 to 3.

Claim 13 (Canceled)